Deportation of Bangladeshi Migrants

1904. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 26th June, 2000 captioned "Experts still divided over deportation of Bangladeshi migrants";

(b) whether it is a fact that at present Bangladeshi migrants have no legal status and ninety-nine per cent of them have settled in India unregistered; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to constitute an independent tribunal to identify the "illegal migrants" as suggested by the former Additional Solicitor General of India so that they could immediately be deported back to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question of granting legal status to the Bangladeshi illegal migrants does not arise at all. The power of detection and deportation of foreigners has been delegated to the State Government/UT Administrations, under section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. Instructions have also been issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations to intensify efforts to identify and deport illegal foreign nationals and also to sensitise the local population about the magnitude and seriousness of the problem. At present, Tribunals have been established in the State of Assam for detection and deportation of illegal migrants. There is no proposal to establish such Tribunals in other parts of the country.